

Minutes

Asheville City Council Public Safety Committee Meeting August 25, 2014 Training Room, Municipal Building

Council Members: Cecil Bothwell, Jan Davis, Chris Pelly

Staff: Gary Jackson, Paul Fetherston, Ken Putnam, Deputy Chief Wade Wood, Dawa Hitch, Kelly Hinz, Chief Joe Meadows, Marshall Wayne Hamilton, Chief Scott Burnette, Chris Budzinski, Martha McGlohon, John Maddux, and Alex Carmichael

Guests: Holly Bower, Timothy Sadler, Jonathan Robert, H.L. Carlisle, Stuart Dodson, Romando Dixon

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

1. **Approval of the July Minutes:** Councilmember Pelly motioned to approve the July minutes. Councilmember Bothwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. **Franchise Agreements Renewals - Ken Putnam, Transportation Director**

Mr. Putnam updated the Committee on three franchise agreement renewals slated to go before the full Council. The franchise renewals were for a trolley bike tour (pub-cycle) service, a pedal bicycle taxi service, and a trolley service. The pub-cycle service asked to add an additional route in the River Arts District with implementation in 2015 or 2016. The route was reviewed and approved by APD and the Transportation Department.

Mr. Putnam reported that there were no concerns from a public safety stand point, and the Transportation Department received virtually no complaints in the seven years since the first agreement began. The renewals would be indefinite and automatic for subsequent years. Either party could terminate the agreement with thirty days notice. The annual agreement fee was \$365.

Councilperson Pelly motioned to approve all three franchise renewals. Councilperson Bothwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **Third Party Reporting Systems – Chief Scott Burnette, AFD**

Chief Burnette presented an ordinance to authorize the Fire Department to utilize third party propriety software to track and manage commercial fire system inspection, maintenance, and testing requirements. The system would manage data collection of sprinkle systems for fire code inspections and would save staff the time required for onsite status checks. The vendor would charge a \$10 fee per inspection, but the Fire Marshall's would offset the cost with an equivalent reduction to the Fire Marshall's inspection fee.

Councilmember Pelly motioned to recommend the ordinance to Council. Councilmember Bothwell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment:

- a. Holly Bower, resident of 100 Cox Avenue.
Ms. Bower spoke to the Committee about an ongoing noise problem at Ben's Tune Up. She reported that the noise ran from 11:30pm to 2:00am and that she perused the issue through the Noise Ordinance Appeal Board without remedy. She urged the City to adopt a decibel meter standard rather than the 'reasonable person' standard.
- b. H.L. Carlisle, resident of Woodfin Street Apartments.
Mr. Carlisle spoke to the Committee about the APD practice of running warrants people who report crimes or ask for help.
- c. Jonathan Robert spoke to the Committee about the Chief of Police's recent statement on the situation in Ferguson. He also expressed concern about APD's practice of videotaping public gatherings, such as Moral Monday. Mr. Robert said that the practice violated the City's own Civil Liberties Resolution. Councilmember Bothwell stated that he brought the issue up with APD and expected a response soon.
- d. Timothy Sadler commended APD's efforts to build better relationships with the community, but he noted that the police face obstacles towards building trust. Mr. Sadler said that those obstacles were exacerbated by police purchasing surplus equipment from the Department of Defense.
- e. Sab'ra Nharaven also spoke to the Committee about APD running warrants on those who may witness a crime. Deputy Police Chief Wade Wood stated that officers often run warrants on those with whom that they come in contact.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/22/14.